



**LAMAR  
INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

Dear Applicant:

You have indicated an interest in pursuing a career in **Dental Hygiene**. Enclosed are all of the necessary instructions and forms for your application into the Dental Hygiene Program at Lamar Institute of Technology.

The mission of the Lamar Institute of Technology Dental Hygiene Program is to produce entry level dental hygienists who meet the oral health care needs of the public. A graduate of this two-year program is awarded an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association. (211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-2678; 312-440-2695; [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) )

We look forward to viewing your application. For questions not addressed in the instructions or on the website, you may email [dentalhygiene@lit.edu](mailto:dentalhygiene@lit.edu) . Be aware that we do receive a very high number of emails, but we aim to respond in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Michelle DeMoss, RDH, MS  
Program Director

***NOTE: Due to the volume of applications, an email pertaining to acceptance status will be emailed after April 30th. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that we have a current email address. You will not receive a letter in the mail.***

To apply for the Dental Hygiene program, you will follow all instructions in the initial instruction packet. Below you will find specific requirements and information for the Dental Hygiene program. These are in addition to what is listed in the original instruction packet.

1. After program acceptance, you must attend a mandatory **virtual** orientation to Dental Hygiene. All applicants will be notified via letter regarding the date of the orientation.
2. .5 additional points will be awarded for having a Dental Assisting Certification.
3. One additional point will be awarded for **at least** 1 year of Dental Assisting experience. The documentation to support this must be uploaded with your application.

### **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL HYGIENE**

Students must be able to perform all functions and tasks required of a Dental Hygienist. A person with certain musculoskeletal conditions may have difficulty performing the daily activities required by the profession of Dental Hygiene. These include, but are not limited to degenerative conditions or injuries to the neck, back, shoulder, elbow, wrist and/or hands. Examples: herniated or bulging disks, chronic rotator cuff symptoms, and carpal tunnel. It is strongly recommended that individuals with any of these conditions be evaluated by their physician prior to pursuing the Dental Hygiene program.

#### **Motor Function Requirements:**

Motor functions must be sufficient to permit the student to be able to:

- Manipulate dental equipment and dental hygiene instruments with eye-hand coordination, using both hands
- Manipulate dental radiographic equipment unassisted
- Use upper body strength to assist patients in emergency situations (perform BLS/ CPR)
- Lift or move 25 pounds (strength to assist in transferring patient into dental chair from a wheelchair; lift or move supply boxes)
- Sit unassisted for long periods
- Demonstrate fine and gross motor skills necessary to provide safe and effective dental hygiene instrumentation
- Write clearly and neatly with pen or pencil
- Demonstrate tactile abilities to allow for physical assessment using palpation, and proper usage of dental hygiene instruments
- Sustain repetitive push, pull and rotation movements of hands at the wrist
- Finger dexterity to enter computer data and perform dental charting

#### **Visual Acuity Requirements:**

Visual acuity must be sufficient and adequate to allow the student to:

- Differentiate between shades of gray on radiographs to determine quality and identify anatomy
- Differentiate between color variations in tissues to distinguish between normal and abnormal
- Read computer monitors, charts, and other pertinent materials for patient care and clinical practice
- Demonstrate adequate depth perception in the instrumentation of tooth structures, and reading assessment instruments (periodontal probes)

#### **Auditory (Hearing) Observation Requirements:**

Hearing abilities must be sufficient to allow the student to communicate with and evaluate patients. The student must be able to:

- Evaluate stethoscope sounds in the monitoring of blood pressure; make fine discriminations in sound

- Hear normal speaking level sounds and various voice ranges
- Receive detailed information through oral communication
- Hear auditory alarms and telephones

### **Communication Requirements:**

Communication skills must be sufficient to permit the student to communicate with patients, coworkers, and professionals. The student must:

- Demonstrate clear and concise English language communication skills, sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form

### **Critical Thinking Requirements:**

Students must be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills deemed appropriate for the academic level and discipline content. A student must be able to:

- Comprehend and integrate knowledge from didactic courses and professional literature into the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene treatment
- Demonstrate long-and-short term memory
- Think critically and perform duties during an emergency situation

### **Behavioral, Social, and Professional Requirements:**

Student's behavioral and social skills must be acceptable within the college and clinical settings. A student must be able to:

- Maintain a high standard of courtesy, ethics, and cooperation in dealing with a diverse group of patients and professionals
- Provide treatment and services to all patients/clients without discrimination
- Provide quality performance despite the stress of the clinical work environment
- Manage strong emotions (such as grief and anger) in a professional manner
- Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently
- Adapt to a changing environment/stress and deal with unexpected situations
- Treat others with respect
- Works effectively as a team member with dentists, dental staff and other office personnel
- Maintain patient confidentiality
- Follow protocols for a wide variety of procedures and duties

### **Employment Qualifiers and Licensure Requirements**

Upon acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program, all students will receive a criminal history background check. Students must be able to obtain a license to practice Dental Hygiene. Each state has regulations governing the practice of Dental Hygiene, including licensing requirements. The following are listed as grounds for refusal to issue a Dental Hygiene license in the state of Texas (Texas Occupations Code, Title 3, Chapter 263, Sec. 263.001, Grounds for Refusal to Issue License).

- presents to the Board fraudulent or false evidence of the person's qualifications for examination or license;
- is guilty of any illegality, fraud, or deception during the examination or the process to secure a license;

- is habitually intoxicated or is addicted to drugs; commits a dishonest or illegal practice in or connected to dentistry or dental hygiene;
- is convicted of a felony under a federal law of this state;
- is found to have violated a law of this state relating to the practice of dentistry within the 12 months preceding the date the person filed an application for a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene

Dentists and Dental Hygienists applying for initial licensure by examination with the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners MUST submit their fingerprints for a State and National criminal history background check.

If you answer **YES** to **ANY** of the questions listed below **you must complete the Application To Request Evaluation of Criminal History on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners**

**Website [www.tsbde.texas.gov](http://www.tsbde.texas.gov)** (Note: You may exclude Class C Misdemeanor traffic violations)

**For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:**

- ( ) Yes ( ) No A. been convicted of a misdemeanor? ( ) Yes ( ) No B. been convicted of a felony?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty to a felony or misdemeanor?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No D. received deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No F. been sentenced to serve jail time or prison time or court-ordered confinement?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
- ( ) Yes ( ) No J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment, punishment or action?

**If you answered YES to any of the questions above you should complete and submit the Evaluation of Criminal History to the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene Program to ensure that you are eligible for Dental Hygiene Licensure in the State of Texas.**

